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Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/66/150.
** This information was received after the submission of the main report.

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Armenia

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The adoption of General Assembly resolution 65/47 provides an important opportunity to examine the challenges related to confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels, to identify the sources of dormant tensions and seek solutions.

Armenia has always been a staunch advocate for regional cooperation in every possible sphere. The reasoning is simple and well justified: even if there are problems between the countries in particular regions, any cooperation, be it small- or large-scale, short- or long-term, is an indisputable contributor to confidence-building.

Guided by that principled approach, Armenia makes every effort to advance confidence-building in the South Caucasus utilizing the frameworks of the United Nations, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Partnership for Peace/Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as well as bilateral relations. Armenia has always demonstrated its readiness and will to initiate projects aimed at the development of regional cooperation in various fields.

Unfortunately, the prevailing situation in the region and the ill-perceived political motivations of Turkey and Azerbaijan do not allow practical confidence-building steps to be taken in the field of disarmament. Even worse, there is an extremely dangerous arms race looming at the subregional level.

According to official information on the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, as of 1 January 2011, Azerbaijan had significantly exceeded its established ceilings in two categories of treaty-limited equipment. The Azerbaijani holdings in battle tanks are 381 (permitted ceiling is 220) and in artillery are 469 (permitted ceiling is 285). In 2010, there was a sizeable increase of holdings in artillery (44) as well as in the categories of attack helicopters (11) and combat aircraft (4).

The many-fold increase of Azerbaijan's military budget over past years (since 2000, by 470 per cent; defence spending in 2011 amounts to $3.3 billion) and the persistent aggressive and harsh rhetoric of the Azerbaijani leadership also heighten the tension in the region of the South Caucasus and seriously undermine the negotiation process aimed at the peaceful settlement of existing problems, particularly the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Confidence- and security-building measures are of particular significance in conflict resolution. Regrettably, Azerbaijan refuses to remove from the line of contact snipers that claim several dozens of lives every year. The Azeri side ignores the persistent calls of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson in Office and Co-Chairs of the OSCE to that effect.

The full and unconditional implementation of the legally binding Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is not only the main instrument for conventional arms control but also one of the cornerstones of confidence-building measures in the region, and the negligent position of Azerbaijan in that regard has a

very negative impact on the efforts of Armenia to promote an atmosphere of trust and cooperation in the region.

To ease the existing tensions in the region, reverse the worrisome trends and fill in the security vacuum, Armenia and Georgia have recently taken responsible steps to advance bilateral cooperation, including in the field of defence. Hopefully, that positive development will influence the other stakeholders in the region to get on the same road.

Germany

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[15 July 2011]

Introduction

The Federal Republic of Germany, referring to its 2010 contribution, dated 14 April 2011, to the database on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms (as mentioned in resolution 63/57), attaches great significance to confidence-building measures in disarmament and arms control and emphasizes the importance of such measures at the regional and subregional levels.

German participation in treaties and agreements with regard to confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels and related activities

(a) Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe;

(b) Treaty on Open Skies;

(c) Vienna Document;

(d) OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;

(e) General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, annex 1-B;

(f) OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

(g) OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;

(h) OSCE Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers.

Other activities of Germany (conferences and seminars) with regard to confidence-building measures in 2010 (list is not exhaustive)

Germany also pays particular attention to regional and subregional dialogue with regard to issues relating to confidence-building measures, landmines and small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Activities in 2010 included:

- Continued support to training courses at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization School in the field of small arms and light weapons
- Continued support to training courses and seminars held at the regional arms control verification and implementation assistance centre in Zagreb

- A fact-finding tour for member States of the Union of South American Nations on confidence- and security-building measures in Europe, stopping in Berlin, Vienna and Frankfurt (Oder), from 21 to 27 February 2010
- A brainstorming seminar of the group of governmental experts to review the operation and further development of the United Nations standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures, held in Berlin, on 13 and 14 September 2010
- A visit by member States of the League of Arab States to Berlin from 26 to 29 September 2010, on issues related to small arms and light weapons

Guyana

[Original: English]
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In keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Guyana holds steadfastly to the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes and is not involved in armed conflict. Moreover, Guyana maintains good relations with all its neighbours.

Guyana is engaged with member States of the international community with regard to regional and international efforts to address the security threats that member States face, in particular those relating to drug trafficking, illegal weapons and international terrorism, as well as the impact that such threats can have on the economic and social development of member States.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has adopted security as its 4th pillar and has identified security assistance and cooperation, intelligence-sharing and regional investigations and enforcement among its main areas of focus. Additionally, CARICOM has initiated a regional crime and security strategy with the objective of creating a safe and secure environment for all CARICOM citizens. In 2005, participants in the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government approved a management framework for crime and security.

At the hemispheric level, the Organization of American States (OAS) has established several measures to promote confidence and security-building among its member States, including the annual submission to OAS of a comprehensive inventory of confidence- and security-building measures that each member State is conducting in the hemisphere.

As a member of the Union of South American Nations, Guyana is part of an initiative aimed at strengthening South America as a zone of peace through the establishment of a mutual confidence mechanism on defence and security matters. The South American Defence Council is currently working on the procedural aspects relating to the establishment of a permanent mechanism on confidence- and security-building measures.

As a member of those regional and hemispheric gr upings and within the wider international community, Guyana continues to participate actively in and contribute to mechanisms aimed at boosting confidence-building and creating partnerships between member States in order to address security challenges.